

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

105th Congress
2nd Session

Vote No. 119

May 5, 1998, 5:30 pm
Page S-4266 Temp. Record

JOB PROGRAM CONSOLIDATION & REFORM/Final Passage

SUBJECT: Workforce Investment Partnership Act . . . H.R. 1385. Final passage, as amended.

ACTION: BILL PASSED, 91-7

SYNOPSIS: As passed, H.R. 1385, the Workforce Investment Partnership Act, will consolidate nearly 70 separate Federal vocational education, adult education, and job training programs, will improve coordination among other such programs, and will enact reforms that will increase State, local, and employer flexibility in program design and administration. Details are provided below.

- One-stop centers. A "one-stop" customer service training and employment system will be developed. Each State will establish a statewide partnership to develop a plan based on its individual labor market needs. A majority of the members of the partnership will be members of business; elected officials, labor officials, and educational officials will also be represented. Local partnerships with similar structures will be developed. Each local partnership will designate at least 1 "one-stop center" at which the activities of the local participating entities ("one-stop partners") will be accessible to all individuals seeking assistance. One-stop centers will include providers of job training activities, employment service activities, unemployment insurance, vocational rehabilitation, adult education, Older American Act title V assistance, and veterans activities, and may include other providers of services, such as welfare and child care providers. One-stop centers may be operated by public or private entities. Each State will establish performance measures for its State plan, which will be subject to Federal approval. Each local partnership will develop local performance measures. States will monitor local performance, sanctions may be placed on a State for failing to meet its performance measures, and incentive grants may be given to States that exceed their performance measures.

- Other workforce provisions. The Federal Job Corps program will be substantially amended, including by having center operators selected on a competitive basis, by making efforts to assign enrollees to the closest centers to their homes, by requiring each center to have an industry council comprised of local employers, by requiring each center to have a business community liaison, and by having the Secretary of Labor establish employment performance measures to which centers will be held accountable; also,

(See other side)

YEAS (91)				NAYS (7)		NOT VOTING (2)	
Republican (46 or 87%)		Democrats (45 or 100%)		Republicans (7 or 13%)	Democrats (0 or 0%)	Republicans (2)	Democrats (0)
Abraham	Hutchison	Akaka	Johnson	Allard		Faircloth- ²	
Bennett	Jeffords	Baucus	Kennedy	Ashcroft		Helms- ²	
Burns	Kempthorne	Biden	Kerrey	Bond			
Campbell	Kyl	Bingaman	Kerry	Brownback			
Chafee	Lott	Boxer	Kohl	Inhofe			
Coats	Lugar	Breaux	Landrieu	Shelby			
Cochran	Mack	Bryan	Lautenberg	Smith, Bob			
Collins	McCain	Bumpers	Leahy				
Coverdell	McConnell	Byrd	Levin				
Craig	Murkowski	Cleland	Lieberman				
D'Amato	Nickles	Conrad	Mikulski				
DeWine	Roberts	Daschle	Moseley-Braun				
Domenici	Roth	Dodd	Moynihan				
Enzi	Santorum	Dorgan	Murray				
Frist	Sessions	Durbin	Reed				
Gorton	Smith, Gordon	Feingold	Reid				
Gramm	Snowe	Feinstein	Robb				
Grams	Specter	Ford	Rockefeller				
Grassley	Stevens	Glenn	Sarbanes				
Gregg	Thomas	Graham	Torricelli				
Hagel	Thompson	Harkin	Wellstone				
Hatch	Thurmond	Hollings	Wyden				
Hutchinson	Warner	Inouye					

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

- 1—Official Business
- 2—Necessarily Absent
- 3—Illness
- 4—Other

SYMBOLS:

- AY—Announced Yea
- AN—Announced Nay
- PY—Paired Yea
- PN—Paired Nay

a "no tolerance" policy will be enforced for violence, drug abuse, alcohol abuse, and other illegal activities at centers. A Youth Opportunity Grant program will be authorized.

- Vocational and Technological Education. The Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Act will be reauthorized and amended; many process requirements will be removed; performance measures will be developed. The Secretary of Education will establish performance measures for the Perkins program, including measures of academic and vocational readiness skills; States will be given incentive grants for meeting Federal performance measures; States will design plans for using Perkins program funds; those plans will be subject to approval by the Education Department. Perkins program funding distribution: States will use no more than the greater of 10 percent or \$300,000 of their allotments for administrative and gender-equity expenses; States will spend 1 percent of their funds for vocational programs for criminal offenders; States will use no more than 14 percent of their funds for State vocational program activities; States will distribute the remainder by formula to local educational agencies, which will distribute part to postsecondary vocational education programs and will use part for secondary vocational education programs. The "Tech-Prep Education Act" will be authorized: to provide implementation grants to develop and operate tech-prep education programs that will lead to 2-year associate degrees or certificates; to provide links among secondary schools, postsecondary schools, employers, and unions; and to support the use of teaching and curricula based on each State's academic, occupational, and employability standards. The Secretary of Education's authority to conduct a national assessment of vocational education programs will be renewed, and authority to establish one or more national vocational research centers will be granted.

- Adult Education and Literacy. The Adult Education and Literacy Act will be reauthorized and amended; many process requirements will be removed; performance measures will be developed. The Secretary of Education will establish performance measures that will include measures of academic achievement, secondary school or the equivalent graduation rates, and job placement rates; States will develop adult education plans, which will be subject to the Department of Education's approval; incentive grants may be given to States that meet Federal performance measures. At least 80 percent of funds allotted to a State will be reserved for local activities, of which not more than 10 percent will be used for education for institutionalized individuals. The National Institute for Literacy will be reauthorized.

- Workforce Investment Related Activities. Collection of labor market information at the Federal level will be consolidated under the Bureau of Labor Statistics; each State will likewise designate a single agency to collect such information. Coordination among existing programs will be improved by making mandatory linkages between welfare to work activities, the Jobs Corps, the Wagner-Peyser Act, the Older Americans Act, the Rehabilitation Act, veterans programs, the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program, and other job training programs.

- General provisions. States will be permitted to submit unified plans for two or more of the State plan requirements under this bill (for job training, adult education, and vocational education). A State that had a comprehensive workforce statute in effect as of July 1, 1997, could continue under that statute for 3 years after enactment of this Act, and the Federal Government could give it an extension after 3 years. A modified "work-flex" program will be authorized and expanded (work-flex is currently limited to 6 States).

Those favoring final passage contended:

This bill will help millions of Americans improve their job skills and find employment. The need for this bill is great. The current system is failing because it is no system at all. It is a complex patchwork of numerous rules, regulations, requirements, and overlapping bureaucratic responsibilities. At present, the Federal Government has 163 separate job training, vocational education, and adult education programs scattered across 15 different Federal agencies and costing more than \$20 billion annually. The current maze discourages both employers and prospective employees from participating in the programs or even finding out about their existence.

This bill, like the welfare bill before it, will reform the current system by scrapping the current process approach in favor of giving State and local governments, educational agencies, and private enterprise huge leeway in setting up the systems that are best for them, and then demanding results. For each of three broad areas (vocational education, adult education, and job training), States will work with local officials, educational agencies, and the private sector to identify particular State and local needs. They will then develop comprehensive State and local plans to meet those needs, and will set performance standards, or goals, to achieve. Instead of imposing detailed mandates, the Federal Government will hold States to those standards. Individuals also will be empowered by this legislation, especially due to the creation of "one-stop" centers. This bill has been carefully crafted and has broad, bipartisan support. We urge our colleagues to vote in favor of final passage.

No arguments were expressed in opposition to final passage.